

injecting the quench liquid exiting the compression chamber into the gallery; and

ejecting the quench liquid from the compression chamber onto the exterior surface of the pipe.

REMARKS

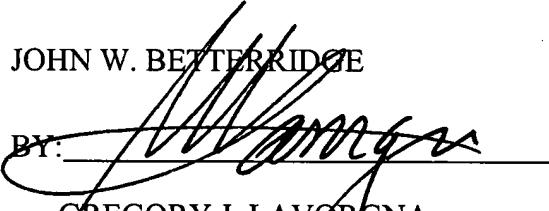
Claims 1-26 are pending in the application. The claims have been amended to reduce dependencies. No new mattered has been introduced.

An early action on the merits is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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6. The apparatus of [any preceding claim] claim 1 wherein the at least one coating head has a diffusing means with the internal passage of the at least one coating head.

7. The apparatus [any preceding claim] of claim 1 further comprising means for supplying a grit from an external source to the at least one internal gallery and means for applying positive air pressure to the at least one internal gallery, whereby the grit is forced by air pressure through the at least one internal gallery and ejected onto the exterior surface of the pipe through the at least one coating head.

8. The apparatus of [any preceding claim] claim 1 further comprising means for supplying a gas from an external source to the at least one internal gallery and means for applying positive air pressure to the at least one internal gallery, whereby the heated gas is forced by air pressure through the at least one internal gallery and ejected onto the exterior surface of the pipe through the at least one coating head.

9. The apparatus of [any preceding claim] claim 1 further comprising means for supplying a quench fluid from an external source to the at least one internal gallery and means for applying positive air pressure to the at least one internal gallery, whereby the quench fluid is forced by air pressure through the at least one internal gallery and ejected onto the exterior surface of the pipe through the at least one coating head.

10. The apparatus of [any preceding claim] claim 1 wherein the stator and the rotor include means for opening and closing around the pipe.

11. The apparatus of [any preceding claim] claim 1 further comprising at least one magnetic induction heater to heat the pipe prior to placement of the coating material onto the exterior surface of the pipe.

14. The method of [claims 12 or 13] claim 12 further comprising the following steps:

supplying at a positive air pressure a gas to the stationary element;

transferring the gas from the stationary element to the gallery;

and ejecting the gas onto the exterior surface of the pipe from one or more coating heads.

15. The method of [any one of claims 12 to 14] claim 12 further comprising the following steps:

supplying at a positive air pressure a quench liquid to the stationary element;

transferring the quench liquid from the stationary element to the gallery; and

ejecting the quench liquid onto the exterior surface of the pipe from one or more coating heads.

18. The apparatus of [anyone of claims 16 or 17] claim 16 wherein the annular-shaped body includes means for opening and closing around the pipe.

19. The apparatus of [any one of claims 16 or 18] claim 16 further comprising means for supplying a grit from an external source to the at least one entry ports and means for applying positive air pressure to the at least one entry ports, whereby the grit is forced under air pressure successively through the intake, compression and diffusing chambers, into the gallery and ejected through the one or more openings in the interchangeable sleeve onto the exterior surface of the pipe around the entire circumference of the pipe.

20. The apparatus of [any one of claims 16 to 19] claim 16 further comprising means for supplying a gas from an external source to the at least one entry ports and means for applying positive air pressure to the at least one entry ports, whereby the gas is forced under air pressure successively through the intake, compression and diffusing chambers, into the gallery

and ejected through the one or more openings in the interchangeable sleeve onto the exterior surface of the pipe around the entire circumference of the pipe.

21. The apparatus of [anyone of claims 16 to 20] claim 16 further comprising means for supplying a quench liquid from an external source to the at least one entry ports and means for applying positive air pressure to the at least one entry ports, whereby the quench liquid is forced under air pressure successively through the intake, compression and diffusing chambers, into the gallery and ejected through the one or more openings in the interchangeable sleeve onto the exterior surface of the pipe around the entire circumference of the pipe.

22. The apparatus of [any one of claims 16 to 21] claim 16 further comprising at least one magnetic induction heater to heat the pipe prior to placement of the coating material on to the exterior surface of the pipe.

25. The method of [claims 23 or 24] claim 23 further comprising the following steps:

supplying at a positive air pressure a gas to the at least one intake chamber;

compressing the gas received from the at least one intake chamber in the compression chamber;

diffusing the gas exiting the compression chamber in the at least one diffusing chamber;

injecting the gas exiting the compression chamber into the gallery; and

ejecting the gas from the compression chamber onto the exterior surface of the pipe.

26. The method of [any one of claims 23 to 25] claim 23 further comprising the following steps:

supplying at a positive air pressure a quench liquid to the at least one intake chamber;

compressing the quench liquid received from the at least one intake chamber in the compression chamber;

diffusing the quench liquid exiting the compression chamber in the at least one diffusing chamber;

injecting the quench liquid exiting the compression chamber into the gallery; and

ejecting the quench liquid from the compression chamber onto the exterior surface of the pipe.